## Message Text

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**ACTION CU-03** 

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV, INR; LNEINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

USIA WASHDC

TAGS: OEXC, PINT, UR

SUBJ: IREX SCHOLARS AND ARCHIVAL ACCESS

1. DURING THEIR JANUARY VISIT TO USSR, IREX OFFICIALS
KASSOF AND MATUSZEWSKI RAISED SUBJECT OF ACCESS TO NEWSPAPER
DEPOSITORY AT KHIMKI, WHICH THEY SAID THEY BELIEVED WAS
IN AREA CLOSED TO FOREIGNERS. MINISTRY OF HIGHER
EDUCATION (MHE) WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT
NEW DEPOSITORY, LOCATED IN AREA JUST BEYOND
MOSCOW RING ROAD MIGHT BE IN CLOSED AREA.
MHE OFFICIALS PROMISED AT THAT TIME TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION
OF HOW IREX SCHOLARS, WHOSE RESEARCH REQUIRES USE OF
NEWSPAPERS KEPT THERE, COULD OBTAIN ACCESS.

- 2. MHE REP INFORMED EMBOFF FEBRUARY FOUR THAT NEWSPAPER DEPOSITORY WAS INDEED IN CLOSED AREA AND NEWSPAPERS NEEDED BY VISITING SCHOLARS WOULD BE DELIVERED TO READING ROOM IN LENIN LIBRARY. SCHOLARS MUST PROVIDE LIST OF WHAT THEY NEED AND CAN THEN EXPECT TO WAIT APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS TO RECEIVE MATERIALS.
- 3. EMBOFF HAS LEARNED THAT SEVERAL IREX GRANTEES HAD VISITED KHIMKI DEPOSITORY EARLIER WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY DIFFICULTIES FROM DEPOSITORY AUTHORITIES OR POLICE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMB ASSUMES THAT, NOW THAT SUBJECT OF ACCESS HAS BEEN

RAISED, AUTHORITIES MAY BE MORE ALERT TO PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS IN KHIMKI AREA AND, HENCE, ALL EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS ARE BEING ADVISED NOT TO ATTEMPT TO VISIT DEPOSITORY.

- 4. EXCHANGEES REPORT THAT THREE-DAY WAIT FOR NEWSPAPERS HAS NOT REPRESENTED SEROUS PROBLEM. INCOMPLETE CATALOGING OF DEPOSITORY HOLDINGS HAS, HOWEVER, CAUSED SOME DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING DESIRED MATERIALS.
- 5. COMMENT: PERHAPS THE MOST NOTEWORTH ASPECT OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS WAS COMPLETE UNAWARENESS ON PART OF PERSONS AT MHE RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFICIAL US-USSR EXCHANGES THAT THIS ARCHIVE, SO CLEARLY VITAL TO SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH BY EXCHANGEES, WAS LOCATED IN CLOSED AREA. THIS FACT RAISES QUESTIONS CONCERNING HOW AND WHY DECISION WAS MADE TO PLACE DEPOSITORY IN KHIMKI. WILL ATTEMPT TO LEARN MORE AND REPORT AS APPROPRIATE.
- 6. REQUEST CU/EE INFORM IREX BASED ON PARAS ONE, TWO. STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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